Boundaries of Wayne County and Its Townships

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The historical background of the formation of Wayne county possesses an interest transcending the narrow confines of its present geographical limitations. Outstanding lines of division in the early history of eastern Indiana, such as the Fort Recovery line; the Twelve Mile Purchase boundary, and the “Gore,” for instance, are associated with the setting apart of this county. A considerable portion, too, of the area of Wayne county lies between the historic Fort Recovery line and the Twelve Mile Purchase boundary. From 1810 until 1818, when Randolph county was organized, Wayne, extending north to the point where a southwest line from Fort Recovery intersected the Twelve Mile Purchase line, constituted the apex of a narrow frontier strip; its western boundary—the Twelve Mile Purchase line—marked the beginning of the Indian lands.

Only five counties had been organized in Indiana Territory prior to the setting apart of Franklin and Wayne in one legislative act, in 1810; and of the five older counties, one—Jefferson—was set off only four days before Franklin and Wayne, so that Wayne, ranking as the seventh oldest county in Indiana, is one of the very early political units of the commonwealth. The discussion of the Wayne county boundary must of necessity be a chronological one, beginning briefly with the formation of the Northwest Territory and the narrowing subdivisions made down to the year 1811 when Wayne county became an organized political unit of Indiana Territory, and coming down to the last act passed by the legislature affecting the boundary of the county.

The Northwest Territory embraced the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River. General Arthur St.
Clair, elected governor of the territory by Congress, issued a proclamation on July 27, 1788, organizing the first county in it, Washington county, comprising the eastern half of the present state of Ohio, with Marietta as county seat. By 1796 there were four counties in the territory: Washington, with Marietta, Ohio, as county seat; Hamilton, with Cincinnati, Ohio, as county seat; St. Clair, with Kaskaskia, Illinois, as county seat; and Knox, with Vincennes, Indiana, as county seat.

The distances between the various seats of local government in this vast domain, as well as the gradual infiltration of settlers, created by 1800 the advisability, indeed, the necessity of reducing the areas of judicial, political, and civil administration to more compact jurisdictions. As a result, the eastern portion of the Northwest Territory was set off from the remainder. The boundary line established by the treaty of General Wayne with the Indians at Greenville in 1795, became the western boundary of this eastern portion, which included the present state of Ohio and eastern Michigan, retaining the name of Northwest Territory until, with altered boundaries, it became in 1802 the state of Ohio. The western portion of the original Northwest Territory, extending westward from the treaty line to the Mississippi river and northward to Canada, including the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and parts of Michigan and Minnesota, was re-organized, receiving the name of Indiana Territory. Broadly speaking, everything west of the Ohio line to the Mississippi river and north to Canada was included in Indiana Territory.

Indiana Territory when set off in 1800 contained three counties; St. Clair, with Kaskaskia as county seat, organized in 1790; Knox, with Vincennes as county seat, organized in 1790; and Wayne, with Detroit as county seat, organized in 1796. St. Clair comprised about the present territory of Illinois; Knox contained, roughly speaking, about the present area of Indiana; and Wayne included northern Ohio, Indiana north of a line from Fort Wayne to the south end of Lake Michigan, a small part of Illinois, eastern Wisconsin, and all of Michigan. Wayne county, of Northwest Territory and Indiana Territory, must not be confused with the later Wayne
county in the state of Indiana. The former soon became in part Michigan Territory; the latter has no connection whatever with it and lies entirely outside its boundaries. The present area of Wayne county, Indiana, in 1800 was in Knox county, Indiana Territory, except so much of it as was included in the "Gore," which belonged to Hamilton county, Northwest Territory (Ohio).

The Ohio Enabling Act of 1802 gave to Indiana Territory the portion of old Wayne county, Northwest Territory, north of the Ohio line. The next year saw the creation of a new Wayne county (later Michigan) bounded on the west by a meridian tangent to the western shore of Lake Michigan, on the south by a parallel tangent to the southern point of Lake Michigan, and on the east and north by Canada. Residents of Detroit soon sought separation from the government at Vincennes, owing to the three hundred miles that separated them from the seat of territorial government, and in 1805, Congress passed a bill whereby the territory north of the line run from the southern tip of Lake Michigan became the Territory of Michigan. The northern boundary of Indiana Territory subsequently was moved ten miles north of the line by congressional enactment.

The establishment of the eastern boundary of the Territory of Indiana affected the area of what was to become Wayne county. By Wayne's treaty with the Indians at Greenville in 1795, part of the Indian boundary line extended from Fort Recovery, in Ohio, southwest to a point on the Ohio river opposite the mouth of the Kentucky river. That line was part of the eastern boundary of Indiana Territory, but the Ohio Enabling Act of 1802 shifted the western boundary of Ohio to a meridian extending north from the mouth of the Big Miami river. The triangular strip between these lines, known as the "Gore," thus became part of Indiana Territory. For purposes of government it was attached to Clark county. The original Indiana-Ohio line (the Fort Recovery or Greenville Treaty line) passes into Wayne county north and a little east of Fountain City. The Richmond chapter of the D. A.R. has erected a marker at the point where the Fort Recovery or
Greenville Treaty line crosses the National Road west of Richmond.

By the Ohio Enabling Act of 1802 settlers in the White-water valley were now citizens of Indiana and residents of Clark county, which had been organized from the eastern part of Knox in 1801, with the county seat at the Falls of the Ohio. The inconvenience of making long trips to the county seat was responsible for an agitation that induced Governor Harrison to make a separate county (Dearborn) of the “Gore,” with the county seat at Lawrenceburg. This document was dated March 7, 1803. Dearborn county, or the “Gore,” prior to the formation of Wayne and Franklin counties, was composed of the present counties of Dearborn and Ohio, and parts of Switzerland, Franklin, Union, and Wayne. It may be noted here that by 1803 and 1804 settlers were scattered up the White-water river as far north as Dunlapsville in Union county, but it was not until the next year that the first settlers explored the land that is now comprised in Wayne county.

We have seen thus far that the present area of Wayne county originally was partly in Knox county of Indiana Territory, and partly in Ohio until the Ohio Enabling Act of 1802, when all of it came under Indiana sovereignty and became an integral part of Clark county; and that in 1803, it became part of Dearborn county, which had been set off from Clark county. All this antedates the coming of the first settlers to Wayne county proper but is essential for an understanding of later boundary changes. In the year that settlements began in the future Wayne county (1805), the region which is now Illinois was still part of Indiana Territory; original Wayne county in Indiana Territory had become in part the Territory of Michigan; giving Indiana Territory five counties in the first territorial legislature of that year (1805). They were Dearborn, Clark, Knox, St. Clair, and Randolph, the latter two being in what is now Illinois.

In 1809 Congress created Illinois Territory embracing “all that part of Indiana Territory which lies west of the Wabash river, and a direct line drawn from the said Wabash river and Post Vincennes, due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada.” Harrison county having been
formed in 1808, there were four organized counties left in Indiana Territory in 1809, all with county seats in the southern part of the present state: Knox (1790) in the southwest, Clark (1801) and Dearborn (1803) in the southeast, and Harrison (1808) in the middle of the southern end.

When George Holman, Richard Rue, and Thomas McCoy and their families, the first whites to settle in Wayne county, came here in 1805, they settled about two miles south of Richmond. At that time only the land in that part of Wayne county which lies east of the Fort Recovery line belonged to the government, a strip about eight and one-fourth miles wide at the south line, four and one-fourth at the north line, and about six and three-fourths where the National Road now intersects it. The territory west of this land was Indian land.

In 1809, Governor Harrison signed a treaty at Fort Wayne with the Indians making the so-called Twelve Mile Purchase. It embraced the strip of land twelve miles wide immediately west of the Greenville Treaty line (Fort Recovery to the mouth of the Kentucky river) beginning at the Grouseland Treaty (1805) line on the south and ending at the north on the Ohio-Indiana boundary in the angle made by the Greenville Treaty line and a line drawn exactly southwest from Fort Recovery to its intersection with the “Twelve Mile” line (which ran parallel to the Greenville Treaty line and marked the western boundary of the Twelve Mile Purchase). As has already been said, the Greenville Treaty line on the east of this purchase crosses the National road about two and a half miles west of Richmond, the “Twelve Mile” line on the west of the purchase runs through Perry, Dalton, Jefferson, and Jackson townships of the present Wayne county and goes through the west part of Cambridge City. Both lines run about thirteen degrees east of north.

It is interesting to note that in the laying off of land by the government in townships, ranges, and sections, the Fort Recovery line, running in a southwest direction by the terms of the Greenville Treaty, made a division line. All land east of the Fort Recovery line was laid off in ranges west from the Ohio-Indiana boundary, or from the first principal meridian. Land west of the Fort Recovery line was laid off in ranges
east from the second principal meridian. No such consideration was given to the Twelve Mile Purchase line. It is to be regretted that no marker has yet been erected designating the course of the Twelve Mile Purchase line through Wayne county.¹

This purchase gave a decided impetus to the settlement of the upper Whitewater valley. Inevitably the long distance to Lawrenceburg, the Dearborn county seat of government for settlers in the Whitewater valley, impelled them to ask for a county government of their own and was responsible for the movement for the legislative act setting up two new counties on the eastern boundary of the territory.

In 1809 and 1810 Richard Rue and Ephraim Overman were elected representatives to the territorial legislature from Dearborn county. In 1810 Jefferson, Franklin, and Wayne counties were set apart by the territorial legislature, Wayne being the seventh county formed in the state. The Enabling Act of Franklin and Wayne counties (the two are embraced in one act) passed the third General Assembly of the territory at Vincennes, November 27, 1810, and became effective February 1, 1811.

The text of the act, so far as boundaries are concerned, follows:²

AN ACT for the Formation of Two New Counties out of the Counties of Dearborn and Clark.

1. Be it enacted by the legislative council and the house of representatives of the Indiana Territory and is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the first day of February, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eleven, all that part of Dearborn and Clark counties which is included in the following boundaries shall form and constitute two new counties, that is to say—“Beginning at the corner of townships number 7 and 8 on the line of the state of Ohio, thence north, until the same arrives at fort Recovery, then from fort Recovery southwardly, with the line of the western boundary of the purchase made at fort Wayne in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Nine, until the same intersects the line of the northern boundary of the purchases made at Grouseland, thence northwardly, with the line of the last mentioned purchase until the same arrives at a point from which

¹ These facts have been called to my attention by Howard Horton, former Wayne County surveyor, whose grandfather held the same position for many years.
² From the Acts of Assembly of the Indiana Territory Passed at the First Session of the Third General Assembly of the Said Territory Begun and Held at the Borough of Vincennes, the Twelfth Day of November A.D. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ten, p. 10.
a due east and west line will strike the corner of town seven and eight of the aforesaid state of Ohio line.

2. Be it further enacted, That the tract of country included within the aforesaid boundaries, be, and the same is hereby divided into two separate and distinct counties by a line beginning at the corner of townships number eleven and twelve, on the line of the state of Ohio, and from thence, due west until the same intersects the line of the western boundary of the before mentioned purchase of fort Wayne, and that from and after the first day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, the tract of country falling within the southern division thereof shall be known and designated by the name and style of the county of Franklin and the northern division thereof shall be designated by the name and style of the county Wayne: . . . .

A visualization of the boundary lines set forth in the Enabling Act shows that Ohio was to be the eastern boundary of this county; a line about five miles south of the present Wayne-Union boundary line was to be the dividing line between Wayne and Franklin; the Twelve Mile Purchase line was to be the northern and western boundary, running exactly southeast from the Ohio line to the “Twelve Mile” line, and thence along that line. There were thus included in Wayne parts of what are now Randolph and Jay counties. Of the original boundary lines, the only one which has not been changed and is today as it was in 1811, is the Ohio-Indiana state line on the east.

The organization of Randolph county in 1818 established the present northern boundary of Wayne. Fayette was formed from Wayne and Franklin counties in 1819; and in 1821, Harrison township, which, with Wayne township, constituted all of Wayne county when it was first organized in 1811, was made part of Union with other territory taken from Fayette and Franklin, thus establishing the present southern boundary of Wayne.9

When Wayne county became a political unit of the state, along with Franklin, thereby giving momentous impetus to the development of the entire Whitewater valley and providing the social and political environment for many of the great leaders of the Indiana commonwealth in its formative period, the western boundary of Wayne and Franklin, and the north-

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9. So far as can now be ascertained, Wayne and Harrison were the two original townships of Wayne county, but our sources of information do not make this absolutely certain.
ern boundary of Jefferson, was the Indian frontier in the southeast and eastern portions of the state. The fringe of seven counties north of the Ohio river, with the Knox boundary lying along the western line of the state, and Wayne, Franklin, and Dearborn extending north on the Ohio state line, comprised, broadly speaking, the extent to which civilization had encroached upon the wilderness. Virtually two-thirds of the state was to all practical purposes uninhabited, or very sparsely settled.

The legislative acts whereby Wayne county lost additional territory besides that surrendered to Randolph county when that political unit was established in 1818, and also obtained land beyond the western boundary of the original Twelve Mile Purchase line, indicate that the western boundary of Wayne was the source of considerable perplexity. No changes in the boundary had been made by the territorial legislature. All alterations were pursuant to acts passed by the state legislature subsequent to 1816.

The first change—after the setting off of Randolph county which established the northern boundary of Wayne county—is contained in an act, approved December 28, 1818, and effective, January 1, 1819, which had to do with the establishment of Fayette county, and helped to shape the southern and southwestern boundary line of Wayne. The southern boundary of Wayne at that time ran due east and west, about five miles south of the present line between Wayne and Union counties. The act created a new southern boundary for that portion, beginning one mile south of the present intersection of the southern boundary and the Fort Recovery line, and extending west to the line dividing sections 27 and 28, township 15, which became the southwestern point of Wayne county. The western line then ran north of this intersection until it intercepted the line dividing townships 15 and 16, whence it proceeded west. The remaining part of the western boundary was fixed in the same act by designating that all land east of a line drawn due north of the southeast corner of section 34, township 16, until it extended to the Randolph county line, should be added and made a part of Wayne county. This line included in Wayne county a triangular portion of land west of
the Twelve Mile Purchase line, in what is now the northwestern part of the county, and at the same time removed a small triangular strip in township 16. This is the first legislative act that added part of the old Indian country west of the Twelve Mile Purchase to Wayne county and helps account for part of the present western boundary of the county. Reverting again to the southern boundary, we find that the act left all land east of the Fort Recovery line and south to the original line between Wayne and Franklin intact.

The act approved January 5, 1821, which provided for the formation of Union county out of the counties of Franklin, Wayne, and Fayette established the present boundary between Wayne and Union, taking from Wayne the land described in the concluding sentence of the foregoing paragraph. The Wayne-Union line remained intact from that date. West of the western boundary of Union, the south line of Wayne remained one mile south of the northwest corner of Union, and the most southern four or five miles of the western boundary also suffered no change. This act also added a strip three miles wide on the western boundary to Wayne county, by designating that all land east of a north line commencing on the north line of Fayette county, one mile west of the northwest corner of fractional section 4, township 15, range 12, east of the second principal meridian and running north until it intersects the line dividing Randolph and Wayne counties, be included in Wayne county. The effect of this section of the act was to restore to Wayne county the small triangular strip in the Twelve Mile Purchase in Township 16, which was removed by the act effective January 1, 1819, and to push the line three miles west of the line established for that portion of the boundary in the act that was effective on January 1, 1819.

The legislative act which set off Henry county, effective June 1, 1822, creates some confusion because of the vague manner in which it designates the beginning point of the boundary in Wayne county. The act merely says: "Beginning at the southwest corner of Wayne county," etc. Considerable legislation followed before this line was finally agreed upon. An act approved January 11, 1823, altered the line to begin at
the southwest corner of section 34, township 16, range 12; thence north to the line dividing townships 16 and 17; thence east to the line dividing sections 33 and 34, and north on it to the Randolph boundary. It is apparent that the line dividing sections 33 and 34 is the same line on which the west boundary proceeded from the beginning point. A line one mile east evidently was meant. By this act Wayne county lost for one year the territory it had gained in the northwest portion by previous legislative enactments. But this act was repealed in an act approved January 22, 1824, which restored the territory that had been removed and, beginning at the southwest corner of section 32, on the line dividing townships 15 and 16, virtually establishing the same line north that had been fixed in the act approved January 5, 1821, as far north as the Randolph line.

A subsequent act, approved January 26, 1827, pertaining to the same line, which was passed to establish the eastern line of Henry county, finally fixes this portion of the west boundary of Wayne as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of section 32; thence north to the line dividing townships 16 and 17; thence east to southeast corner of section 32, township 17, range 12, thence north to the northeast corner of section 20, township 18, range 12. By this act, Wayne county lost a strip one mile wide from the intersection of townships 16 and 17, running north to the Randolph line, but it retained a strip two miles wide in the same portion that had been the subject of the foregoing legislative acts.

An act relative to county boundaries, approved February 17, 1838, sets out the boundary of Wayne and adjacent counties, as they are today, and in conformity with the various changes that were made in the acts that have been reviewed in the foregoing. With this enactment ends the list of various legislative acts that have to do with the formation of the boundary of Wayne county as one of the political units of the state.

THE TOWNSHIPS OF WAYNE COUNTY

It is surprising that records of the formation of townships in Wayne county, and apparently in many other counties in Indiana, are almost entirely lacking, at least for the early days.
The few accepted statements about early townships in Wayne county are not free from error; all of the county histories, for instance, give the date of the formation of Harrison township as 1843; the correct date is 1844. The difficulty of receiving this sort of information furnishes perhaps both an explanation of its absence in county histories and a justification for its publication here.

The barrier to settlement which the Indian land west of the Twelve Mile Purchase line presented, as well as the modifications of the northern, southern and western boundary lines of Wayne county by legislative enactment, are reflected in the formation of and subsequent changes in the lines of the townships of the county. The configuration of the townships in Wayne county is exceedingly kaleidoscopic, perhaps more so than in any county of the state. Washington, Dalton and Franklin are the only townships that approximate a regular contour. The shapes of the other townships are exceedingly irregular, owing to a disposition of the county commissioners, it would seem, to grant the request of residents for the creation of new townships out of existing ones, and the later addition to, or subtraction of, strips of territory from adjacent townships. Of the six which were established in 1817 not a single township has preserved its original form or area.

It is apparent from one or two references in the records of the commissioners between 1812 and 1817 that the county originally was divided into two districts or townships, but the boundaries of these units are obscure. The early county records fail to give them, and none of the histories of early Wayne county or Richmond sets them out. Wayne was one and Harrison is supposed to have been the other. It is assumed that the territory south of the present Wayne-Union line probably constituted one district, and the territory north of this was comprised in the other. The first records of a commissioner's court date from 1812. These records, both in the original, and in a typewritten form, are preserved in the commissioner's court in Richmond. Records prior to 1812 either were lost or destroyed in the transfer of county property from Salisbury to Centerville, and from there to Richmond.

Following the admission of the state into the Union in
1816, Wayne county was divided into six townships by the commissioners, February 10, 1817. These six townships comprised all the territory in original Wayne county as formed by the legislative act passed in 1810, including the land north from the original Franklin-Wayne line (five miles south of the present Wayne-Union boundary) and extending north to where the line of the Twelve Mile Purchase turned sharply to the east toward Fort Recovery, Ohio. The original townships were Washington, Harrison, Jackson, Wayne, New Garden and Perry.

The six units had the following boundaries:

Washington—The boundary began at a stake one mile east of the range line dividing ranges 12 and 13, east of the principal meridian, on the county line between the counties of Wayne and Franklin; running thence north seven miles to the corner between sections 7 and 18; thence west to the Indian boundary; thence with same to the corner of Franklin county, thence to the beginning.

Harrison—The boundary began at the beginning of the corner of Washington township, and turning with the line of that township to the corner of the same; thence east to the state line; thence south to the corner of Franklin county; thence west to the beginning.

Jackson—The boundary began at the north corner of Washington township; thence west with the line of the same to the Indian boundary; thence with said line northwardly ten miles to the corner dividing fractional sections 23 and 26; thence east along the section line to the corner of sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, and thence to the place of beginning.

Wayne—the boundary began at the corner between the townships of Washington, Harrison and Jackson, running thence north ten miles to the northwest corner of Jackson township; thence east to the state line; thence south with the said line to the corner of Harrison township, and thence west with the line of said township to the place of beginning.

New Garden—The boundary began at the corner of Jack-
son and Wayne townships on the Perry township line, running
thence east with the line of Wayne township to the state line;
thence north to the extreme settlements of Wayne county;
thence west to the northeast corner of Perry township; thence
with the line of the same to the place of beginning.

Perry—The boundary began with the northwest corner of
Wayne township, running two miles east to the corner between
sections 21 and 28; thence north to the extreme settlements in
Wayne county; thence west to the Indian boundary; thence
south with said boundary to the corner of Jackson township,
and thence east to the place of beginning.

The Twelve Mile Purchase line became the western bound-
ary of Washington, Jackson and Perry townships, while Har-
rison, Wayne and New Garden extended along the Ohio bound-
dary in the original municipal divisions.

Washington township in the southwestern corner extended
as far north in present Wayne county as a line about two miles
south of the present town of Milton, the same line being the
northern boundary of Harrison township in the southeast. By
the formation of Fayette county in 1819, Wayne county later
lost the greater part of original Washington township, al-
though the curtailed township preserved its name in the re-
districting that followed. The new boundary of Washington
then became the following: Beginning at the southeast corner
of section 30, thence north three miles to the northeast corner
of section 18; thence west three miles to the northeast corner
of section 15; thence north three miles to the northeast corner
of section 34; thence west to the boundary between sections
27 and 34; thence southerly to the corner of Fayette county;
thence to the beginning.

The changes made in Wayne county by the formation of
Fayette county affected Washington township most of all the
townships. It lost everything south of the present Wayne-
Fayette line, but its original northern boundary was moved
three miles north, the territory being taken from Jackson
township. Part of its eastern boundary, however, still re-
ained in what is now a portion of Abington township.

The greater portion of original Harrison township was lost
to Union county in 1819. With it went the name for the des-
ignation of the portion of its territory which remained in Wayne county and is now part of Boston, Wayne and Abington townships; later (1844) a new township in northwestern Wayne county was organized and given the name of Harrison.

The 1817 allocation by the commissioners gave to Jackson and Wayne townships a straight east and west line for a southern boundary, being the northern boundary line of Washington and Harrison. The north boundary of Jackson and Wayne was a line that originally ran from what is now the southern boundary of the town of Hagerstown, and the principal east and west thoroughfare through Webster. The two townships embraced then about one-third of the territory of Wayne county.

The eastern boundary of Perry township ran north from a point on the north boundary of Wayne and Jackson townships, about two miles east of the west boundary line of Wayne township. New Garden township embraced the land east of the Perry line to the Ohio state boundary.

Out of these six original townships and from land west of the Twelve Mile Purchase line subsequently were organized nine additional townships.

In August, 1817, Center township was organized. The commissioners took three miles off the west boundary of Wayne township and three off the east boundary of Jackson for this purpose, leaving the original north and south boundaries as they were. Its original boundary was: Beginning at the southeast corner of fractional section No. 26, township 13, range 2; running thence north ten miles to the northeast corner of section 27, township 17, range 14; thence west six miles to the northwest corner of section 26, township 17, range 13; thence south ten miles to the southwest corner of section 11, township 15, range 13, thence east six miles to the beginning. In 1820 the following addition was made: Beginning at the northwest corner of fractional section 26; running thence east to the old boundary; thence south to the range line; thence down said line to the southeast corner of section 25, township 14, range 1; thence west to the old boundary; thence south to the south line of Center township. This addition to the eastern
boundary of Center took a strip of a mile from Wayne township.

The setting off of Randolph county in 1818, establishing the present north boundary of Wayne county, automatically gave to Perry and New Garden townships a permanent north line, although prior to that time their jurisdiction extended to “the extreme settlements of Wayne county.”

Green was formed out of Perry and New Garden townships in 1821 with the following boundary: On the east by New Garden township; north by Randolph county; south by the line of Center and Jackson townships and on the west by the

in 1821 with the following boundary: On the east by New line between Perry and Green townships. One range of sections on the east side was taken from New Garden township to make this boundary.

The territory of Perry and Jackson suffered further losses by the creation of Clay township in 1831, which lies within the original Twelve Mile Purchase. Its boundary was designated: Beginning at the half mile stake in the south line of section 18, township 17, range 14; thence west four miles to the half mile stake of section 16, township 17, range 13; thence south through the center of sections 21, 28, and 33, to the half mile stake of section 33 on the township line dividing townships 16 and 17; thence east four miles on said township line to the half mile stake on the south line of section 31, township 17, range 14; thence north through the center of sections 31, 30 and 19 to the place of beginning.

The irregular contour of the boundary suffered little improvement in 1839 when the commissioners ordered that section 15 of Green township be attached to Clay; section 16 of Perry be attached to Clay; section 8 of Jefferson (organized in 1834) be attached to Perry, and sections 17, 20, 29, and 32 of Jefferson be attached to Clay. The commissioner’s records show another addition to Clay township in 1844 when the board ordered that section 3 of township 16, range 13, now a part of Center township and the east half of section 4 of said township, range 13 and now a part of Jackson township, be attached to Clay township.

Land west of the Twelve Mile Purchase was included in
the formation of Jefferson township, which was carved mostly out of Perry and Jackson in 1834. Its boundary follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of section 8, township 17 of range 13; thence running west on the section line to the northwest corner of section 9, township 17 of range 12; thence south with the Henry county line to the southwest corner of section 33, township 17 of range 12; thence east along the line dividing townships 16 and 17 to the southeast corner of section 32, township 17, range 13; thence north with the section line to the place of beginning.

New Garden township, lying along the Ohio line, suffered a loss of its eastern territory in 1834 when Franklin was formed out of it, and a small portion taken from Wayne township. The description of Franklin follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of Wayne county and running west on the line of said county to the road leading from Richmond to Fort Wayne; thence south with said road to the Wayne township line; thence east with said line to the state line; thence north with said state line to the place of beginning.

In 1843, another addition was made to Franklin township at the expense of New Garden, when the county commissioners ordered that sections 4, 9, 16, and parts of 27, 28, and 23 of township 15, range 1, and section 4, township 14, range 1, parts of which hitherto belonged to New Garden be stricken therefrom and added to Franklin township.

Although Wayne township's area had been reduced since the original allotment in 1817 by the formation of townships, it still was by far the largest single municipal unit in the county and it was not until the formation of Boston township in 1835 and Abington in 1837 that its territory was reduced to its present area. The first white settlers in the present area of Wayne county came to these two townships. Boston township originally was part of Wayne, and Abington part of Wayne and Washington townships.

The formation of Boston township in 1835 took from Wayne township that portion of original Harrison township (1817) which was north of the Union-Wayne county line, established by the legislative act of January 5, 1821. Its boundary follows: Beginning on the Ohio state line at the northeast corner
of section 25, township 13, range 1 west; running thence six
miles west to the Center township line; thence south three
miles to the Union county line; thence east along said line to
the Ohio state line; thence north along the state line to the
place of beginning.

Abington was given the following boundary: Beginning at
the southeast corner of section 1, township 12, range 2 west;
running thence north three miles to the northeast corner of
section 25, township 13, range 2 west; thence west along the
section lines to the northwest corner of section 11, township
16, range 14 east; thence south to the line dividing Wayne
and Fayette counties; thence east with said line one mile;
thence north one mile, thence east with the line dividing Fay-
ette, Union and Wayne counties to the place of beginning.

Reference has been made in the foregoing to the original
Harrison township which may have been the name of one of
the two original municipal units of Wayne county prior to the
division into six townships made by the commissioners Feb-
uary 10, 1817. The Harrison township established by the
commissioners on that date was lost to Union county in 1819
when that political unit was established by legislative enact-
ment.

Not until June 9, 1844 did a Harrison township again ap-
pear among the units of Wayne county and then territories of
Jefferson, Jackson, Clay and Center townships were drawn on
by the commissioners in the formation of the Harrison town-
ship that exists today. It is interesting to note that all the
Wayne county histories and all references to Harrison town-
ship's formation that have appeared in print give an errone-
ous date of 1843.

Careful investigation of the Wayne county records, how-
ever, disclosed that it was not until one year later, June 9,
1844, that the commissioners made the following entry in their
records:

It is ordered by the board that a township be organized out of the
territories of Jefferson, Jackson, Clay and Center to be composed of the
following sections, viz 31 and 32 of township 17, range 13; section 1,
12, and 13 of town 16, range 12 and the west half of section 4 and sec-
tions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29 of town 16, range
18, to be called Harrison township.
The area of Dalton township lies west of the west boundary of the Twelve Mile Purchase, with the exception of a narrow triangular strip in the southeastern section. Originally the entire area of Dalton was part of Perry, but in 1847 it was set off with the following boundary: Commencing at the northwest corner of Wayne county; thence east to the range line between townships 12 and 13; thence south with said range line to the north line of Jefferson township; thence west to the county line; thence north to the place of beginning.

Center, Wayne, Green and New Garden townships contributed further territory to the formation of a new township in 1870 when Webster township was set off with the following description: Beginning at the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 17, township 17, range 14, east, in Green township; running thence south on the section line to the southwest corner of section 32, township 17, range 14 east in Center township; thence east on the section line to the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 18, town 14, range 1, west in Wayne township; thence north to the half section line dividing section 13, township 17, range 14 east in New Garden township; thence west to the place of beginning in Green township.

In the formation of this township, Center gave about six square miles, Green three, New Garden three and three-eights and Wayne two and one-half.

No changes have been made in the township boundaries since 1870.